DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 309 263 CE 052 877

| | |
|---|---|
| TITLE | The Youth Service America Working Group on Youth Service Policy: Issue Papers. |
| INSTITUTION | Youth Service America, Washington, DC. |
| PUB DATE | 89 |
| NOTE | 12p.; For related documents, see CE 052 878 and CE 052 880-881. |
| PUB TYPE | Viewpoints (120) |
| EDRS PRICE | MF01/PC01 Plus Postage. |
| DESCRIPTORS | *Community Services; Experiential Learning; Federal Aid; Federal Legislation; Federal Programs; *National Programs; Policy Formation; Postsecondary Education; *Public Policy; *Public Service; Secondary Education; Social Services; *Youth Programs |
| IDENTIFIERS | *Youth Service America |

ABSTRACT

The three issue papers in this document contain the recommendations made by a Working Group on Youth Service America (YSA) regarding pending and proposed youth service legislation. "Recommendations to the President about the Youth Entering Service to America Foundation" discusses youth service and its mission. Operating tenets for the Youth Entering Service to America Foundation are proposed, and structural considerations relating to the Foundation are addressed. "Testimony before the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources about National and Community Service Legislation" (Frank Slobig) articulates what would later become the Working Group on Youth Service Policy's Statement of Principles. The focus is on the role of YSA, YSA's desire to build on the existing network of youth service programs, the youth service theory of complementary needs of the community and young people, a Trust of the United States as an alternate administrative model, and a greater role for governors. "Recommendations Regarding Federal Involvement in the Field of Youth Service" presents the set of six principles the Working Group considers essential to preserving the vigor and integrity of the youth service movement and recommendations to guide the President and Congress. (YLB)

**********
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
**********

ED309263

# The Youth Service America Working Group on Youth Service Policy: Issue Papers

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

☐ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

F Slobig

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

Issue Papers

1. Recommendations to the President about the Youth Entering Service to America Foundation: Issue Paper Number One
2. Testimony Before the Senate Labor & Human Resources Committee by Frank J. Slobig
3. Recommendations regarding Federal Involvement in the Field of Youth Service: Issue Paper Number Three

Working Group on Youth Service Policy

**Campus Compact**
**Campus Outreach Opportunity League (COOL)**
**City Volunteer Corps**
**City Year**
**Constitutional Rights Foundation**
**Council of Chief State School Officers**
**National Association of Secondary School Principals**
**National Association of Service and Conservation Corps**
**National Collaboration for Youth**
**National Crime Prevention Council**
**National Youth Leadership Council**
**PennSERVE**
**Public/Private Ventures**
**William T. Grant Foundation Commission on Youth and America's Future**
**Youth Service America (YSA)**

CE052877



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

***Editor's Note:*** *During the fall election campaign, President Bush proposed to establish a foundation called Youth Entering Service To America (YES). The proposed foundation would raise substantial private money and seek federal matching funds up to $100 million to fund a national foundation. Its purpose would be to promote an ethic of service among America's youth and enlist young people in community service.*

*Early in November, 1988 Youth Service America convened a Working Group On Youth Service Policy to discuss pending and proposed youth service legislation. The following recommendations were delivered to the President's transition team on January 9, 1989, endorsed by the major youth service organizations listed on the front of this document.*

*Shortly after being sworn in, President Bush established an Office of National Service in the White House, part of whose responsibility is to plan and implement the YES Foundation. The foundation's structure is still unclear. Emphasis appears to focus primarily on pre-collegiate, school-based service. How YES will operate and what its relationship to existing organizations and local programs will be is yet to be announced.*

Issue Paper Number One

From the
Youth Service America
Working Group on
Youth Service Policy

January 9, 1989

# Recommendations To The President about the Youth Entering Service To America Foundation

**What is Youth Service?**

Youth service today operates from an expanding base of well-organized programs utilizing the energy and idealism of young people to address significant community needs. This programmatic base currently includes 50 full-time state and local youth corps, 450 campus-based community service programs, more than 3,000 junior and senior high school community service programs, additional community-based programs, and federal civilian service programs including the Peace Corps, VISTA, and the Youth Conservation Corps.

Youth service today has a tripartite mission:

- to provide substantive and sustained service meeting widely-acknowledged community needs;

- to develop young people in ways that enhance their self-esteem, education, leadership, employability and sense of caring for others;

- to alter policies of agencies dealing with youth to view young people as community resources.

Youth service today involves in-school and out-of-school young people from all segments of our society. While only a fraction of young people are involved in current programs, the goal is to expand young peoples' opportunities to serve until the ethic of service becomes a regular part of growing up in America. These opportunities should begin early in life and be reinforced through the teenage and young adult years, including part-time and full-time civilian service opportunities as well as service in the armed forces. They should include both uncompensated service and such modestly compensated service as the state and local service and conservation corps, Vista and the Peace Corps.

Youth service involves a substantial commitment of a young person's life to organized activity in a structured setting to improve the lives of others.

Youth service is about citizenship and seeks to bring together young people from different backgrounds for common purposes. It changes the way society views young people and how young people view their responsibilities to society.

Youth service is integral to education in a democracy and to realizing the full potential of human development. The ethic of service nurtures a

sense of social responsibility and a belief that an individual can make a difference.

Youth service is a highly effective way to supplement formal schooling with structured, real-life experience that in turn enhances life skills, employability, self-esteem, and leadership.

**What should be the Foundation's operating tenets?**

The primary function of the Youth Entering Service to America Foundation should be to mobilize and exercise the national leadership role of the President to make youth service an integral part of fulfilling citizenship responsibilities in our society.

The YES to America Foundation should be focused on assisting ongoing efforts to develop the established base of workable programs and program models so that increasing numbers of young Americans are involved in community service from childhood through early adulthood, generation after generation. In pursuit of this goal, the foundation should:

- Utilize the national leadership role of the President to advocate, promote, and honor youth service.

- Enlist the strengths and capabilities of existing youth service organizations to build upon current national, state, and local efforts to rapidly expand the number of opportunities for young people to serve.

- Promote a wide diversity of youth service, including:
  — school-based programs
  — community/city-based programs
  — campus-based programs
  — state-wide and federal programs

- Ensure that youth from all segments of society have access to part-time and full-time youth service programs.

- Ensure that substantive work is accomplished and that these accomplishments are reported to the public — including conservation, housing rehabilitation, and such human services as education/tutoring, literacy, daycare and maintaining the quality of life of elderly citizens.

- Encourage a variety of vehicles for service, including schools, city and county governments, states, non-profit organizations, public-private partnerships, and national and federal programs.

- Exercise its leadership by generating funds to enable other organizations in the youth service field to conduct technical assistance, research and evaluation, training for program operators, and information exchange.

- Encourage innovation, creation, and long-term sustainability of youth service at all levels.

- Utilize its funds to leverage additional private and public support for youth service, with governors and state governments,corporations, and foundations as full partners in this effort.

- Finally, the Foundation should support the development of existing and additional programs in local communities and states rather than operating its own federal programs.

## Structural Considerations

The Youth Entering Service to America Foundation should be an independent entity with a federal charter, a Trust of the United States chaired by the President with a prominent member of the other party, such as a former President or Vice-President as Vice-Chairman.

The Foundation's board of directors should be bipartisan, broadly representative, and reflect the diversity of American society.

The Foundation's board should include two Senators and two Members of the House of Representatives (one from each party) who have a demonstrated record of interest in the establishment and expansion of youth service; a substantial representation of persons who are engaged in the leadership of youth service programs, including young people themselves; governors, mayors, and legislators who will be expected to create and fund youth service programs; Americans whose lives demonstrate the value of service in building a better nation; and leaders of private corporations, labor unions, the education community, and foundations whose partnership is critical to the realization of the YES to America Foundation's objectives. Board members should have fixed terms.

The Foundation should have an active Advisory Council reflecting the major components of youth service both by types of sponsoring organizations and kinds of service being provided.

The Foundation should have a small staff and avoid creation of another federal bureaucracy. The staff should have knowledge of and substantial experience with development of the current network of youth service programs and initiatives.

The Foundation should seek to encourage each state to establish a broadly representative entity encouraging state-wide youth service.

Issue Paper Number Two

Frank J. Slobig
Co-Director
Youth Service America

Tuesday, March 14, 1989

# Testimony before the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources about National and Community Service Legislation

***Editor's note:*** *The first few months of the 101st Congress witnessed the most active interest in youth service in the history of the movement. By the time Frank Slobig, codirector of Youth Service America, testified before the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee in March, 1989 many youth service bills had been introduced in the Congress. Slobig's testimony begins to articulate what would later become the Working Group on Youth Service Policy's Statement of Principles.*

*Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, I am very pleased to appear before you this morning to give testimony about the importance of youth service, and especially about "Serve America: The Service to America Act of 1989." My name is Frank Slobig; I am codirector of Youth Service America, a national organization that promotes and develops youth service programs in all the streams of service all across the country, for students in schools and colleges and for out-of-school young people in full time state and local youth corps.*

## The Role of Youth Service America

Youth Service America has played a pivotal role in developing the youth service field to this point. We have brought a more focused overall vision to the field and a sense of unity among the chief players. We have provided valuable technical assistance at local and state levels. We have been active in hammering out the elements of a unified policy framework. We have been successful in gaining favorable publicity for the field. Now we are becoming increasingly active in identifying and promoting a range of new expansion strategies.

The views that I am about to express are my own and those of Youth Service America. I would like to emphasize, however, that these views have been strongly influenced by a set of principles developed by the Working Group on Youth Service Policy. This group of 16 major youth service organizations active in this field for many years was convened by Youth Service America to assist in shaping a national public policy for youth service. The Working Group has not yet reviewed your bill but will do so in the near future. If possible, we would like the observations and recommendations that will be made later by the Working Group to be included in the hearing record.

First, let me state that we applaud you, Mr. Chairman and the Committee for the role you are playing in giving the proponents of the varied youth service legislation a fair hearing. There are good features in each one of the bills that has been introduced in the 101st Congress. Through these hearings this committee will be able to combine the best features of all of the youth service legislation in one omnibus and bipartisan Act that will enable the youth service field to move forward with great strides.

**Serve-America Builds On Program Network**

As to the specific merits of the Service to America Act, we believe that it incorporates many of the guidelines Youth Service America and the Working Group on Youth Service Policy have formulated: most importantly, Serve-America seeks to build upon and expand the existing network of youth service programs. It incorporates all the streams of service — school-based, campus-based, community-based and out-of-school youth (17 - 25) — into its very broad framework.

Serve-America ensures that young people from all segments of our society will be involved in service, whether they are in or out-of-school. Because the Act calls for "service to begin in the earliest grades, to grow into sustained community action in secondary schools and colleges, and to become a lifelong habit," we believe that increasing numbers of young Americans *will* be involved in community service from childhood to early adulthood. Service will be woven into the fabric of American life, generation after generation.

Serve-America promotes a wide diversity of service and encourages a variety of vehicles — school-based programs, campus-based programs, statewide, county and federal programs, community/city-based programs, nonprofit organizations and public/private partnerships. It also directs that substantive work is accomplished and that these accomplishments are reported to the public — including conservation, housing rehabilitation, and such human services as education/tutoring, literacy, daycare and maintaining the quality of life of elderly citizens. It *asks* young people to make a significant and sustained commitment to these needs of our nation.

The Service to America Act encourages innovation, creativity, and long-term sustainability of youth service at all levels. It provides ways for its funds to leverage more public/private support for youth service. It also asks agencies of the federal government to seek ways through existing programs to expand service opportunities for all Americans.

The Act makes a point of calling for national and local recognition to outstanding individuals and programs involved in youth service, so that national and local leadership will advocate, honor and promote youth service.

**Youth Service Theory - Complementary Needs**

Mr. Chairman, as you well know, youth service recognizes and responds to a theory of complementary needs — the needs of the community and the needs of young people. On the one hand, local communities, indeed the whole country, need active, energetic workers who bring idealism and enthusiasm to the tasks they perform. On the other hand, young people want to be engaged and needed. They benefit from being *resources* not recipients, givers not takers, part of the solution not part of the problem.

The genius of the best local programs is that they transform the view of who young people are and of what they are capable.

I urge this committee to continue to challenge the conventional stereotypes about today's young people. They should not be dismissed as apathetic or uncaring. In every state, in nearly all the cities across America, young people are responding to the call of service.

Allow me to balance my praise for what you have proposed with some cautionary observations about a few elements of your bill and add some recommendations about missing elements that could be considered.

**Alternate Administrative Model - Trust of the United States**

First, let me urge you to consider an alternative administrative model to any existing government department or agency at federal or state levels. Our Working Group recommends establishment of a Trust of the United States. An independent, federally-chartered entity could be funded jointly by public and private sources. Its board could be bipartisan and operate with a measure of autonomy from each passing administration. A Foundation for Youth Service could work *creatively* to strengthen the growing, grass-roots youth service movement, to directly support the entrepreneurs who have created these programs and united them into a network with a coherent philosophy. It could help directly finance the best expansion strategies at the local, state and national levels *without* shifting the power of the pursestrings to federal and state government officials. Youth service is a treasure of the American people. Let us make our national efforts a public-private enterprise. Let us utilize national resources to assist the leaders of the exciting new network of programs in their efforts to involve more young people in service. Let us create an enduring entity to preserve and enhance youth service throughout our society. A Trust of the United States can achieve these purposes better than a conventional, government administrative model.

Second, please reconsider the use of any existing federal formula for allocating funds. The vitality and creativity of the existing youth service program network has resulted in great part from the innovation of civic entrepreneurs who have made things happen. A formula allocation approach could dampen flexibility and decrease the likelihood of such dynamic developments.

**Role for Governors**

Third, a greater role for governors ought to be promoted. A substantial portion of funds could be allocated to interested governors to initiate and stimulate innovative approaches outside of the traditional educational channels. Governors could become effective champions for youth service - as several already are. They could stimulate new community partnerships of state and local government, schools, businesses, and community agencies.

Finally, as someone who has played the in-kind matching game at the local program level, I urge you to eliminate in-kind matches and require real additional dollars. This will increase the leveraging capability of federal funds and assure an increased level of real funding.

I wish to thank you for the opportunity to testify today and assure you that the staff of Youth Service America will continue to work with the committee as the legislative process crafts a bill to advance the full range of youth service initiatives.

Issue Paper Number Three

From the
Youth Service America
Working Group on
Youth Service Policy

April 10, 1989

# Recommendations Regarding Federal Involvement In the Field of Youth Service

***Editor's Note:*** *Because of the number and diversity of proposals regarding federal initiatives to promote youth service, YSA's Working Group on Youth Service Policy developed a set of principles to guide the President and Congress. The Working Group considers these essential to preserving the vigor and integrity of the youth service movement.*

**Working Group Recommendations**

We, representatives of organizations with a deep interest in youth service, are unanimous in sending these views to the President and to the Congress of the United States:

1. We applaud President Bush's leadership in announcing his intention to establish a Youth Entering Service (YES) to America Foundation.

2. We are equally heartened by the widespread and bipartisan support in Congress for a variety of youth service legislation.

3. We assure the President and the Congress that our respective organizations will labor tirelessly to vindicate their faith in American youth and in the power of the youth service ideal.

4. We are concerned, however, that in the scramble to enact youth service legislation, the basic integrity and creativity of the youth service movementcould be seriously damaged.

5. We therefore ask:

   • that any federal legislation build upon the existing network of youth service programs and leadership;

   • that school-based, campus-based, and community- based programs which are part-time, and youth service corps which are full-time, all be advanced by federal legislation;

   • that youth service proposals be considered in a thoroughly bipartisan fashion;

   • that every effort be made to reconcile both executive and legislative branch interests and sponsorship.

6. It is our hope that hearings on all youth service bills will result in a comprehensive bill. In this way, the needs and potentialities of youth service at all ages and in varied settings may be considered.

To aid the Congress and the Executive Branch in their formulation of youth service legislation, administrative arrangements, and funding levels, we offer the following Statement of Principles which reflects our collective judgment about the nature of quality youth service in America.

Youth service is an ideal embodying the best of American values. These include a concern for others, active contributions by the individual to the life of the community, and working together as partners to meet major social challenges in American society. Today, this ideal is being given fresh expression through a growing and decentralized system of youth service programs based in schools, colleges and universities, states, cities, and communities. Over 50 full-time state and local youth corps are already underway, as well as 450 campus-based programs, more than 3,000 public and private junior and senior high school programs, and additional community-based programs. These programs provide structured opportunities for young people to serve their communities beginning in elementary school and continuing throughout their formative years. Diversity of participation is encouraged and highly valued. Both in-school and out-of-school young people from all segments of our society are involved. Any federal initiatives should build carefully upon this base or the hard work of many years might be obliterated.

The most effective programs in our emerging national system of youth service share certain common principles. These principles distinguish them from traditional volunteerism and public service work or training programs.

- Service is the *central mission* of a youth service program.

- Both communities and participating young people view their service projects as needed by, and of real value to, the community.

- Young people are viewed as a vital resource which can help meet pressing human and environmental needs in communities across the nation.

- Community service is recognized as a powerful form of citizenship education that imbues young people with an ethic of social responsibility carried into adulthood.

- Projects and programs are carefully structured and require certain minimum hours of service for a sustained period. Young people are organized in well-planned and well-supervised groups.

- A plan for meeting the developmental needs of young participants — for self-esteem, education and basic skills, employability, leadership, and a sense of caring for others — is integrated into the delivery of service, along with a reflective component about the service experience.

- Appropriate incentives and rewards — such as public recognition, school and college credits, scholarships, stipends or salaries — are utilized to encourage the participation of young people and to emphasize the value our society places upon the ethic of service.

- Program design provides for adequate training of participants and the staff of community agencies and organizations in which the participants will serve.

Rigorous evaluation of programs is taken seriously.

- Programs inculcate a sense of community responsibility and the valuesof citizenship. Young people are involved in appropriate ways in program design and redirection.

- Programs and projects respond to local needs, are best planned and administered at the state and local levels, and are an integral part of community and school policy affecting youth, human services, and the environment.

Finally, community service is a vital American tradition. We believe that sustained participation in community service ought to become an expected part of growing up in America for *all* young people. The service by young people is a national treasure and belongs, not to the government, but to the American people. We therefore urge that the entity established by Congress to administer federal funding of youth service be nonpartisan and with a capability of directly supporting the most creative public and private, state and local initiatives across the country. We recommend that this entity be chartered as a **Trust of the United States of America.**